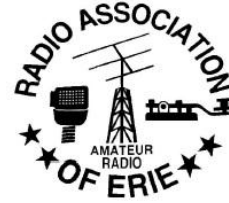




The QUARAE



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May 2012

President Says

I finally made it back to Lawrence Park after a hot winter in Florida. Maybe we should have stayed home, not much of a winter in Erie!

Before I left, I went to the KSC visitor center and took one of the available tours that allowed us inside the vertical/vehicle assembly building (VAB). NASA had the shuttle discovery setting in one of the high bays waiting to be loaded on the back of a 747 for its trip to the air and space museum in Washington, D.C. The VAB and the shuttle were most impressive; the size is amazing, almost unbelievable!! Then a few days later I was able to see the shuttle on the 747 flying south along the beach to Patrick Air Force Base where it did a u-turn and headed north to DC. I was able to attend many shuttle launches while in Florida for the winter over the last 14 years, but alas, all good things must come to an end! Now I see some delta and atlas rocket launches putting SATELLITES in orbit, which is still most impressive.

Now I have to be satisfied viewing the ISS when it is VISIBLE flying over our area. I use the website www.heavens-above.com. It has many other options to CHOOSE from.

So in conclusion I am happy to be back and looking forward to a great summer of amateur radio activity.

73, Doug AD4ULI

Club House Clean-up



We had a fairly good turn-out for our club house clean-up. A Special thanks to Gretchen Miller KB3UWK and George Younkin N3SRF for cleaning, dusting, sweeping, and mopping. We can thank Ed Barlow K1ZIK for checking SWRs and matching on antennas. Kevin McKenna K3EV and Joe Ponchak KA3CPV put the plexiglass back in the window and primed the windows trim and cleaned gutters and down spouts and got water



**Radio Association of Erie
Club Meeting – Thursday
May 3 at the club house
at the end of Wagner Rd.**

6:00 Hot dogs

7:00 PM- General Meeting

Program: ARRL's Out Post.

turned on. Thanks to all who contributed to the clean-up at the club house. A big dent was put in the tasks that needed done. A breakfast of coffee, orange juice, eggs, bacon and toast was enjoyed by all. The new Kenwood was hooked up, connected to the 3 element yagi and tested. I broke through a "pile up" first call on CG1T Nova Scotia for a 20 meter contact. There is still lots to be done. We need to schedule another day of tasks soon. Let's use the club house more often. Lots of coax in different places of the building needs identified and measured and tagged. Need to install a permanent 80 meter antenna. We still need to install a floor receptacle for the multimedia table. We need to paint or change the fuel oil tank. The floor needs waxed. We need a clock at every ham station. We need to add more connections at the antenna switch area. So you can see we need more work.

I cudda been on the honor roll Charlie -- Brando

2012 RIPLEY, NY - HAMFEST

For many local hams this is the first hamfest of the year. It is small, but lots of goodies are available at a reasonable price. The pancake breakfast alone is worth the price of admission. It is a good place to see old friends and have an eye-ball QSO. It takes place Sunday, May 6 at the Ripley Firehall just south of US RT 20 on NY RT 76. Turn south at the traffic light. Vendor set-up at 7 AM and open to the public at 8AM. Everything ends at noon. Admission is only \$3. One table including admission is \$5. Additional tables are \$2 each. To reserve tables contact:
FRED KRAUSE @ 716.708.9830
BOB FULLER @ 814.898.1115
Coffee, breakfast items, etc. will be available.
Parking available just south of fire hall and north of railroad tracks.

Lightning Arrrrghhhh -- Smoked Hams and Baked Beacons

NW PA HAMFEST

Is a joint venture by the Union City and the Wattsburg Wireless Associations and is a ARRL sponsored event. It will take place Saturday, July 14th at the Greene Township Municipal Building, 9333 Tate Road, Erie Pa. Talk-ins will be on 146.70 pl 186.2. Doors open at 7:30 AM and hamfest ends at 11 AM. Rain or Shine. Visit web page at www.nw-pa-hamfest.com

I love the smell of OZONE in the morning...smells like...victory.



Jersey 2012 QRV K3PLV

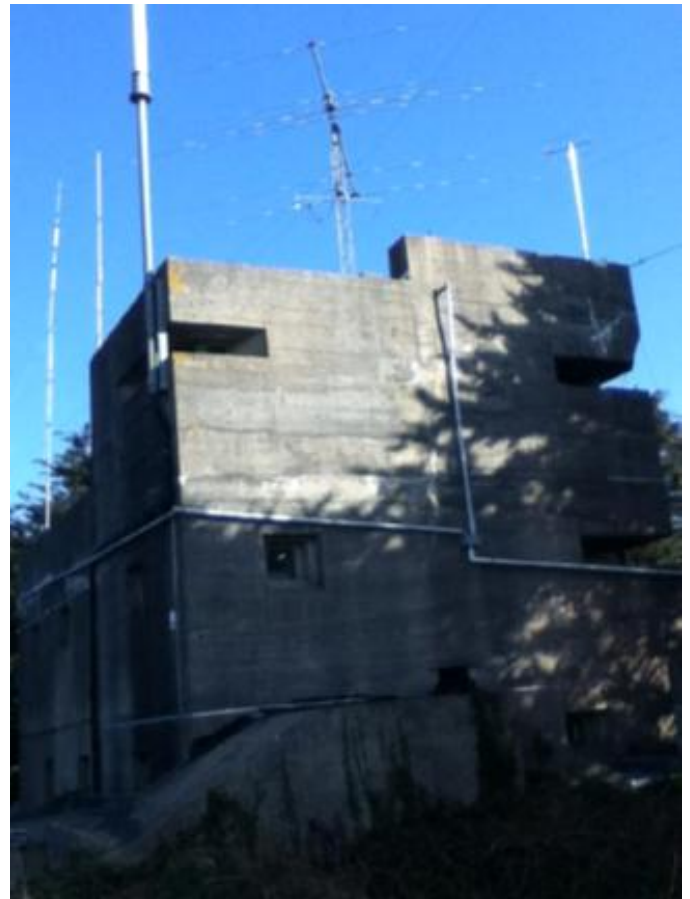
Since 1999 almost every year I've been traveling to the small, independent, island, country of Jersey. Jersey is about 14 miles off the French coast and about 100 miles south of England. The first year was with my wife to see the sights. But I also visited their amateur radio club and met some of the local operators. Ever since then I've gone back to operate and see my friends. Also one of the locals (MJ1CYD) and his wife came over to stay with us and see the sights and a few years later my wife and I stayed with them and met their children and grandchildren. This was to be my 13th visit to Jersey. Being the 13th, WB3DOM suggested I skip this trip and just go on my 14th. Maybe I should have taken his advice, because of Murphy. Until just a few days before I was to leave I still wasn't sure I really was going. Back in February my wife came down with a cold. It never really cleared up

and was eventually diagnosed as bronchitis. . She started a course of antibiotics. But she didn't improve. Her breathing became labored and she did not feel well and was extremely tired. She went back to the doctor and started a second course of antibiotics. This continued for the third and fourth courses and she still wasn't feeling good and had trouble breathing. But finally a few days before my trip, she started to improve and I thought it would be ok to leave her.

I drove to Buffalo and flew to Charlotte. Then I flew from Charlotte to London and on to Jersey. The trip went fine and all flights were on time. But I can never sleep on these flights. I left Erie about 8 am and arrived on Jersey at 10 am Jersey time (5 am Erie time). I might have gotten 10 minutes sleep on these flights. When I arrived on Jersey my friend was waiting for me. I wasn't expecting that. I told him my friend, K8PT, wasn't going to be arriving until 1 pm. My friend suggested that he pick him up at the airport and take him to where I was staying. Being as tired as I was, I took him up on it. I picked up my car, a Peugeot. Automatics are scarce on Jersey, but I have an awful time shifting with my left hand, especially the first couple of days, so I always specify an automatic. This Peugeot must have had at least 10 horsepower as it could barely make it up the hills. But it was good on gasoline mileage. Gasoline sells for about \$8.30 a gallon on Jersey (after you make the conversion of liters to gallons and pounds to dollars.). By the way it's higher in the rest of Europe.

After dropping off my baggage I finally found a place to park the car – about a half mile away, all up hill. I tried to sleep and maybe got about 5 minutes. After my friends arrived, K8PT, said he was also extremely tired and wanted to sleep for an hour. After that we drove to the club station. Some of the new members had been doing some improvements since I was there the year before. They now had two stations set up with relay switching and had put in a new tower with a second HF beam. But they were still doing some work on the rotor so the

antenna was roped in one direction. We set up our interfaces and got on the air. The pile ups were still there, as always. We eventually went to dinner at a pizza restaurant. The pizzas have some very different toppings. Mine had pine nuts, sun dried tomatoes, and spinach. We went back and operated some more, but went back to where we staying about 8 pm.



I parked about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away and we got some sleep. But being on the wrong time zone I had trouble getting to sleep, and then woke up at about 5 am. We had our breakfast which consists of fruit (prunes, grapefruit, bananas), fruit juice, cereal, eggs, un-smoked bacon, sausage, baked beans, grilled tomato, toast, and tea. That's just way too much food and by the time we were ready to leave I only had some fruit, tomato, beans, toast, and tea.

Each day is like Groundhog Day. That is every day is the same. The higher bands are dead, so we start on 30 and 20 meters and as the day progresses the other bands open up. We had great openings to

Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, etc, and later in the day openings to North America. Of course Europe is always open. The pileups were good, but workable. But from what people told me, some of the ops called me from Erie and never made it through the pileups. But at times I worked many mobiles and even worked a 5 watt mobile from the US. The propagation wasn't all that great. Ten meters never opened to the US, but we worked hundreds on 12.

My friend came over and visited several times and went out to lunch with us a couple of days. The weather was great – high 60s to low 70s and sunny. We would enjoy eating outside under the 125 year old fig tree, loaded with figs. My friend also came over to take me for rides to see the scenery and also took me to his place to visit with him and his wife. K8PT wouldn't take operating time off to do this though. But he did go along one day when my friend took us to his house to eat Black Forest Cake (Schwarzwaelder Kirschtorte) and an Apple Flan. He had originally come to Jersey to work in a large fancy hotel as a dessert maker. The desserts were great. I couldn't drive to his place because of the parking problem. Parking is a premium on Jersey and the closest place near his house would be about a mile away. Where he parks his two cars, here in America we wouldn't think it's large enough to park one.

I again worked about 20 Erie area hams or hams that have a connection with Erie. The day before our last day of operation, the club amplifier quit. We have an amplifier we shipped over, but my friend used that. Pileups were smaller without the amp and also conditions deteriorated. But I still had about 3,750 QSOs and my total is now almost 36,000. K8PT had about 3,600, but he ran quite a lot of RTTY (about 750 RTTY QSOs) and the QSO rate is slower on RTTY. As always we took our host and his wife to dinner the last evening. Dinners there are always fancy and multiple course. We settled up at our guest house, packed and went to bed. I set my alarm for 5 am and woke up at 3 am (10 pm the night before Erie time). We got to

the airport at 6 am, shook hands and went to our respective gates. My flights went well and all arrived early. But because of US Air's hub being Charlotte, the in the air time from London is 8 hours 10 minutes. I arrived back in Buffalo at 6:05 pm. Then I had the drive back to Erie and got home about 9:00 (stopped for something to eat). Needless to say I was tired. But that's what it takes to go on a DXpedition. Would I do it again? Sure I would. You can't stop at 13. Here's the Erie area and hams with Erie connections I worked: WB3DOM, KD3RR, KB3OFD, K2OF, W3IA, N3KLN, KB3LZK, KJ3L, KB3DPM, WA3PRC, WD4BEE, K3SBU, K3GY, W2REA, KB3MI, K3LRI, W3YX, VQ9FT (WA3LCO), KB3THU, KB3QBB, and N3LPO

Send your articles, pictures, for sale items, poems, songs, thoughts, one arm grandmothers with two suitcases to jlindvay@msn.com if you want to be published.

Local Nets

The best way to stay in touch and find out what is going on is to check into the local net. Please check in to the mailbag net on 146.70 pl 186.2 every night Monday thru Friday at 8 PM local time.

Please check in to the ragchew net on 146.61 or 146.82 pl 186.2 at 9 PM local time every night Monday thru Saturday.

Dear Ms. Jones
Patsy Insurance Co.
Wata'ohoh, HI 96999-0101

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for Block 3 of the Accident Report Form (ARF) I submitted to you on April 1, 1997. I put "poor planning" as the cause for the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully. I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on

the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went back to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in Block 11 of the Accident Report Form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and in spite of my pain, I was able to hold on to the rope. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight, shown in Block 11 of my submission. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only 3

vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope

**.Sincerely, Andy Clark, WA4PRF
TIARA (Tokyo International Radio
Association**

Ham Radio Calendar

May 3 – RAE Meeting. 6PM Hot dogs, 7PM meeting.

May 5 – Indiana QSO Party 1600Z – May 6 0400Z

May 5 – 7th Area QSO Party. 1300Z – May 6 0700Z

May 5 – Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest. 0001Z – May 6 2359Z

May 5 – New England QSO Party see website for info. www.neqp.org

May 6 – Ripley Hamfest. See article.

May 8 – Wattsburg Wireless Association Meeting. 7PM

May 10 – Union City Wireless Association Meeting. 7PM

May 12 – Armed Forces Comm'ns Test. See website www.netcom.army.mil/mars.

May 12 – Nevada Mustang Roundup 1700Z – May 13 1700Z

May 13 – Mother's Day. Buy her a new HT.

May 26 – CQ WW WPX Contest 000Z – May 27 2400Z

May 28 – Memorial Day.

June 3 – Breezeshooter's Hamfest, Butler, Pa. see http://www.breezeshooters.net/html/our_hamfest_2012.htm